

Harpswell Energy Task Force Committee

January 11, 2010 Meeting Minutes - Approved February 8, 2010

Chairman David I. Chipman called the meeting to order at 4:08pm at the Harpswell Town Office. Committee members Debora Levensailor and John Monaghan, Jr. were also present.

December 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes - On a Chipman/Monaghan motion, the committee unanimously approved the December 14, 2009 meeting minutes as amended.

Committee members reviewed and further developed some of their previous suggestions for distributing more information to the community regarding home winterization:

(1) Create an article for the Town of Harpswell newsletter (John volunteered to write it.);

(2) Ask an Efficiency Maine representative to come to Harpswell to speak at a public meeting and answer questions attendees may have (John); (3) Produce a program for Harpswell TV (Dave and Deb); (4) Dave plans to speak to Marty at the Brunswick Housing Trust and Howard Nannen of the Harpswell Housing Trust about applying for Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for homes at Hamilton Place. (John informed the committee that he is now LEED accredited.); and (5) Ask for permission to place information on the Town of Harpswell Web site which directs people to other sites such as Efficiency Maine's. John said Efficiency Maine's goal is to winterize 4,000 Maine homes within the next year and all homes in Maine by 2030. He said ventilation systems are available to ensure that fresh air enters homes and that there are no furnace related back drafts.

Deb told the committee about a segment of the Channel 6 news she had seen earlier in the day regarding wind spirals. The Adobe company has installed vertical wind spirals (small turbines) in front of their office in downtown Palo Alto, California. They are attractive and look like sculptures, and provide more than enough energy to meet demands. Deb suggested this type of wind turbine might be a good fit and beneficial for Harpswell and they could perhaps be placed in a community flower garden and patio area behind the TV station and at Mitchell Field in the future. She will continue researching the issue.

Dave said he will check into why 100 watt flood lights were installed on a front corner of the Town Office and said there should be a motion detector on the lights that would cause them to only come on as folks arrive at and leave meetings.

The committee continued their on-going discussion regarding street lights in town. Some of the main criteria for determining their necessity could be the following: (1) Pedestrian and vehicular safety - consider housing density, speed limits, dangerous curves; (2) What types of lights would be the most efficient? and (3) Is there a valid reason for the light being there? Deb showed the committee a news article, which highlights a Bath GIS high school class's efforts to identify lights in Bath which could be shut off and an article about Yarmouth residents looking into the issue in their town as well. Dave said he would contact the teacher of the Bath class and town officials in Yarmouth for more information. The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to collaborate with Harpswell Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to work on the street light project. The committee would present the criteria to be used in the study. Dave volunteered to contact the scout groups. Committee members plan to continue discussion on the matter at future meetings, drive around town and observe the lights, and check into the cost and penalties of removing some of them.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING - Mon., Feb. 5, 2010 at 4pm at the Town Office.

On a Levensailor/Monaghan motion, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting. Dave adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debora A. Levensailor, Harpswell ETFC Vice-Chairwoman